

May 6, 2013

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Furey, Herring, Siani,
Sargent, Tsao, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi,
Assistant Engineer Gruezo, Senior Planning Associate Chun, and
Planning Associate Sakamoto.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Herring moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved for the approval of the April 1, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Sargent abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

Bob Habel, West 181st Street, stated that there is a dotted white line between two sections of double yellow striped lines on Plaza del Amo between Arlington Avenue and Carson Street. He suggested adding double yellow striped lines to that section to make it safer for pedestrians crossing the street.

Engineering Manager Semaan offered to follow up on his concern and report back to the Commission.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

MOTION: Commissioner Siani made a motion to move this item to the end of Items Under Consideration. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7b. RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION REGARDING PROTECTED PERMISSIVE LEFT TURN (PPLT) PUBLIC OUTREACH

Assistant Engineer Gruezo provided background on the item continued from the March 4, 2013 Traffic Commission meeting. He reported that staff met with the design consultant and the City's Community Relations Division on April 11 to discuss details of the public outreach plan to educate the community about the PPLT flashing yellow arrow (FYA) traffic operational control methodology. He stated that outreach meetings are geared towards regularly scheduled homeowners association meetings but would be open to any residents. He presented proposed community outreach meetings listed in Attachment A, noting that meetings 1, 3, and 5 are confirmed for May 15, August 19, and September 19. He advised that coordination efforts are ongoing and final dates, times, and locations would be posted on the City's project website.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that it is necessary to consolidate regions of the City to try to capture as large an audience as possible during the summer months before construction begins. He noted that the goal is to be proactive prior to implementation rather than reactive, adding that scheduling dates has been challenging as many homeowners associations do not meet on a regular basis. He advised that staff is exploring any potential venues that are available that include DMV, Police Department, and Torrance Unified School District facilities.

Commissioner Siani relayed efforts by John Bailey, President of Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, to coordinate the scheduling of a meeting.

Chairperson Rudolph raised the possibility of dedicating a portion of Commission meetings to educate the public about PPLT FYA but it was decided that it would be better to focus on neighborhoods that would be directly impacted.

Assistant Engineer Gruezo distributed a draft utility billing insert that will be mailed out Citywide in the June billing cycle.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, he advised that staff is reviewing videos from existing agencies that could be placed on the City's website as well as preparing a press release for local newspapers.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to receive and file the information regarding the Protected Permissive Left Turn with Flashing Yellow Arrow traffic signals public outreach program. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7C. PRESENTATION OF CRAVENS AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Senior Planning Associate Chun provided background on the Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project. She reported that the City received \$800,000 in grants through the 2009 Los Angeles Metro Call for Projects with matching funds that the City will provide. She stated that they are also adding some street rehabilitation and a water main project and that improvements include sidewalks, curbs, lighting, intersections and crosswalks, entryways, access ramps, benches, kiosks, trees, bicycle racks, and directional signs on Cravens Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Carson/ Cabrillo Avenue.

With the aid of graphics, Planning Associate Sakamoto showed how Cravens Avenue is a critical edge for Downtown Torrance with commercial on one side and residential on the other. He discussed community meetings last summer to gauge the needs of both sectors. He stated that they are not changing the public right of way so will not be able to expand the sidewalk area. He showed how they plan to expand the landscaped medians on Torrance Boulevard and Carson/Cabrillo Avenue, creating entryways into Downtown Torrance.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, he stated that they are looking into saving the old Cravens Avenue sign and giving it to the Torrance Historical Society.

Responding to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, he stated that enhanced signage would direct drivers to the public parking lot on Cravens Avenue.

Planning Associate Sakamoto stated that the construction drawings are approximately 60% complete and that they hope to begin construction at the end of the year or beginning of next year, with construction expected to take four months.

Commissioner Siani inquired about circulation, and Engineering Manager Semaan stated that they hope to maintain access and circulation during the construction period, not only for residents and businesses but also for emergency services.

The Commission was in recess from 7:45 to 7:52 p.m.

7d. CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPING TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN

This item was continued from the February 4, March 4, and April 1, 2013 Commission meetings when Commissioners offered suggestions for development of a new Traffic Commission Work Plan. He suggested adding Commissioner Siani's suggestion at the April 1 meeting to "Develop a policy of resident notification of parking restriction installation" and Commissioners agreed that it should be added to the list. At Commissioner Sargent's request, he provided clarification regarding "Divide City into sectors for Commissioners to report traffic issues on" and "Stagger limit line for double left turn movements." The list was finalized as follows:

1. Anza Avenue corridor traffic analysis
2. Artesia Boulevard corridor traffic analysis
3. Carson Street corridor traffic analysis
4. Torrance Boulevard corridor traffic analysis
5. 182nd Street corridor traffic analysis

6. Access restrictions at driveways (in/out)
7. Signal modification, right turn overlap arrows
8. Parkway improvements – 182nd Street
9. Addresses stenciled on curb
10. Stagger limit line for double left turn movements
11. Divide City into sectors for Commissioners to report traffic issues on
12. Develop a policy of resident notification of parking restriction installation

Engineering Manager Semaan reviewed the 12 proposed Work Plan items listed on sheets of paper taped to the wall. He gave each Commissioner six dots, each a different color, and asked them to prioritize the items viewed as most important to them, noting the goal to have five work plan items and one alternate.

Following a brief discussion and voice vote, it was determined to remove “Artesia Boulevard corridor traffic analysis” from the list of items and the votes for it were not counted. Highest voting results for six items were tabulated as follows:

Stagger limit line for double left turn movements	6 votes
Develop a policy of resident notification of parking restriction installation	6 votes
182 nd Street corridor traffic analysis	5 votes
Signal modification, right turn overlap arrows	5 votes
Parkway improvements – 182 nd Street	3 votes
Anza Avenue corridor traffic analysis	3 votes

It was further decided to present all six items at the July 16, 2013 joint meeting with City Council and not to have an alternate. Commissioners were selected to present each item at the joint meeting as follows:

Stagger limit line for double left turn movements - Furey
 Develop a policy of resident notification of parking restriction installation - Siani
 182nd Street corridor traffic analysis - Herring
 Signal modification, right turn overlap arrows - Tsao
 Parkway improvements – 182nd Street - Rudolph
 Anza Avenue corridor traffic analysis - Sargent

7a. NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

This item was taken out of order.

Commissioner Sargent, seconded by Commissioner Furey, nominated Commissioner Siani for Chairperson of the Traffic Commission.

Commissioner Tsao nominated Commissioner Furey and Commissioner Siani nominated Commissioner Tsao for Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission; Commissioner Tsao declined the nomination.

Commissioner Siani was elected Chairperson and Commissioner Furey was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission beginning July 1, 2013 by unanimous voice vote.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan announced a Commissioner Certification class on June 4, with appointments expected on June 25, 2013.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to June 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

###

Approved as submitted June 3, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
